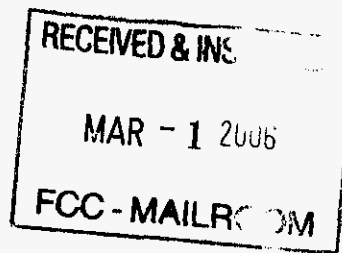


JEROME E. BRUNS
1635 270 STREET
PORTER, MN
56280
FEBRUARY 18, 2006



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FCC CHIRMAN
KEVIN J. MARTIN
445 12th STREET SW
WASHINGTON, DC
20554

SUBJECT: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

CHAIRMAN MARTIN:

As someone who is concerned about increased taxes and telephone fees, I oppose YOUR PLAN to change FCC way to collect monies for the Universal Service Fund.

CHAIRMAN MARTIN; your proposed "monthly flat-fee" system would result in forced phone bill hikes for me, and for millions of low-volume, long distance users in the U.S. Thus shifting the funding burden of the USF away from high volume users, like BIG BUSINESSES, and placing the weight on low volume users, the general public. THIS IS UNFAIR ! It is a de-facto tax increase of as much as \$707million for 43 million low-volume, long distance users in the U.S.

I urge you, MR. CHAIRMAN MARTIN, to rethink your flat-fee plan, and keep the "pay-for-what-you-use" system.

I look forward to hearing about YOUR NEW POSITION on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerome E. Bruns".

Jerome E. Bruns

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List 4